

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/837,962

Applicant(s)

GINZBOORG ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Rasha S AL-Aubaidi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to filing an RCE submitted on 01/13/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24 which have been renumbered as 1-18, 21-22, 19-20, and 23-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/15/01 & 01/13/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's attorney Alicia M. Choi on 03/31/2005.

IN THE CLAIMS :

Please amend claims 1, 19, 20, and 23 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling service provision for customer terminals, used by customers for receiving services, in a telecommunications network including at least one server for offering services to the customers, and control means for controlling the provision of services to customers, the method comprising the steps of:

- continuously providing a service by transmitting information to the customer terminal;
- receiving information about service-specific payments in the control means from the customer terminal during delivery of the service;
- informing the control means of the current price of the service;

- maintaining at least one control parameter value is dependent at least on a difference of accumulated charges for the service and accumulated sum of service-specific payments, the service being unpaid for when the accumulated charges are larger than the accumulated sum of the service-specific payments;

- comparing the value of at least one of said at least one control parameter to a first threshold, the first threshold defining an amount of unpaid service that a customer receives; and

- stopping the continuous provision of the service when the value of the control parameter has reached the first threshold;

- sending to the customer terminal a notification of a lost payment; and

- receiving a re-sent payment from the customer terminal.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling service provision for customer terminals, used by customers for receiving services, in a telecommunications network including at least one server for offering services to the customers, and control means for controlling the provision of services to customers, the method comprising the steps of:

- continuously providing a service by transmitting a plurality of information flows to the customer terminal;

- receiving information about information-flow-specific payments in the control means from the customer terminal during delivery of the service;
- informing the control means of the current price of the information flows;
- maintaining for each information flow at least one control parameter whose value is dependent at least on a difference of accumulated charges for the information flow and accumulated sum of information-flow-specific payments, an information flow being unpaid for when the accumulated charges for the information flow are larger than the accumulated sum of information-flow-specific payments;
- comparing, for each information flow, the value of at least one of said at least one control parameter to an information-flow-specific threshold, the information-flow-specific threshold defining an amount of unpaid information-flow-specific that a customer receives; and
- stopping said plurality of information flows if the control parameter value of at least one of the information flows reaches the threshold corresponding to it;
- sending to the customer terminal a notification of a lost payment; and
- receiving a re-sent payment from the customer terminal.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling service provision for customer terminals, used by customers for receiving services, in a

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telecommunications network including at least one server for offering services to the customers, and control means for controlling the provision of services to customers, the method comprising the steps of:

- continuously providing a service by transmitting a plurality of information flows to the customer terminal;

- receiving information about information-flow-specific payments in the control means from the customer terminal during delivery of the service;

- informing the control means of the current price of the information flows;

- maintaining for each information flow at least one control parameter whose value is dependent at least on a difference of accumulated charges for the information flow and accumulated sum of information-flow-specific payments, an information flow being unpaid for when the accumulated charges for the information flow are larger than the accumulated sum of information-flow-specific payments;

- comparing, for each information flow, the value of at least one of said at least one control parameter to an information-flow-specific threshold, the information-flow-specific threshold defining an amount of unpaid information-flow-specific that a customer receives; and

- stopping only a single information flow when the control parameter value of said information flow reaches the corresponding threshold;

- sending to the customer terminal a notification of a lost payment; and
- receiving a re-sent payment from the customer terminal.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling service provision to customer terminals, used by customers for receiving services, in a telecommunications network including at least one server for offering services to the customer, and control means for controlling the provision of the service to a customer, the system comprising:

- first means for continuously providing services by transmitting information to customer terminals;

- second means for receiving information about service-specific payments from customer terminals during delivery of services in the control means;

- third means for informing the control means of the current price of the service, and said control means comprising

- first control means for maintaining for the service at least one control parameter whose value is dependent at least on a difference of accumulated charges for the service and accumulated sum of service-specific payments, the service being unpaid for when the accumulated charges are larger than the accumulated sum of service-specific payments;

- comparison means for comparing the value of a control parameter to a first predetermined threshold value, the first threshold defining an amount of unpaid service that the customer receives; and
- second control means for stopping the continuous provision of the service when the value of the control parameter has reached the first threshold, wherein the customer terminal receives a notification of a lost payment and a re-sent payment is sent from the customer terminal.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The supplemental IDS filed 5/15/2005 did not include a PTO-1449 form. At time of allowance, Examiner phoned applicant, and applicant faxed the missing 1449 form. It is now considered and attached to this office action.


Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rasha S AL-Aubaidi whose telephone number is (571) 272-7481. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad F Matar, can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.


AHMAD F. MATAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Examiner

Rasha Al-Aubaidi

03/31/2005